

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting a stronger South Dakota-China relationship.

WHEREAS, the United States of America and the People's Republic of China established official diplomatic ties in 1979, which has produced numerous benefits to the people in both nations; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama of the United States and President Xi Jinping of China stressed in Beijing in November 2014 to promote the construction of a new model of major-country relations between the two countries, and to put into practice principles of no conflict, no confrontation, mutual respect, and cooperation; and

WHEREAS, the annual trade volume between the United States and China reached over half a trillion dollars in 2013 and the two countries are each other's second largest trading partner; and

WHEREAS, China is the largest source of import and third largest destination of export for the United States; and

WHEREAS, the significant increase of trade between the United States and China has created millions of job opportunities in both countries; and

WHEREAS, there are forty-one pairs of sister states/provinces and two hundred three pairs of sister cities between the United States and China and the two countries also established the U.S.-China Governors Forum in January 2011 to support subnational cooperation. All these provide channels and opportunities for exchange and cooperation between the people of the two countries; and

WHEREAS, over ten thousand Americans and Chinese fly across the Pacific Ocean every single day for mutual visits with the purpose of educational exchanges, business opportunities, and tourism and the people in both countries are raising higher demands on broader and deeper exchanges and cooperation; and

WHEREAS, the State of South Dakota has shared a great relationship with China through strong diplomatic ties, increasing trading cooperation, and frequent exchanges of people; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota has not established any sister state/province or sister city relationship with China, while other US states have enjoyed such a relationship which promotes a long-term, mutually beneficial, and strong friendship with each other; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that the key to these special accomplishments lies in mutual understanding and mutual respect as well as in vision and support of leaders in both countries:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Ninetieth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the South Dakota State Legislature is committed to a stronger relationship with China, exploring the establishment of sister state/province and sister city relationship with China, enriching economic prosperity and cultural understanding in both countries, and bridging two great countries and great peoples.

Adopted by the Senate,  
Concurred in by the House of Representatives,

February 17, 2015  
February 19, 2015

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Matt Michels  
President of the Senate

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Kay Johnson  
Secretary of the Senate

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Dean Wink  
Speaker of the House

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Arlene Kvislen  
Chief Clerk of the House